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Webster's New World Dictionary

OF AMERICAN ENGLISH

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Webster's New World
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*Dedicated
to David B. Guralnik
lexicographical mentor
and friend*

Webster's New World Dictionary, Third College Edition

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see STRONG INTERAC-

2 lacking in courage,

physical strength or
ct
ak —adv. in a weak

nd; indecisive; unable
lemined 3 showing
a decision/ —weak-

ing weak 2 a weak
a) a liking, esp., an
thing of which one is
—SYN. FAULT

le of the court with
ive line having fewer

eliable, etc.

ridge raised on the

ll-being, akin to OS:
us state; well-being;
the body politic
(ME *weld*); forest,

[Old Poet.] 1 a
Weald region in SE
England forested

see WEAL² & -TH¹

worldly possessions;
operty; affluence /a
ing/; abundance /a
or derivatives /the

5. Econ. a) every-
price b) any useful
stocked for future

1 having, wealth;
y, or suggestive of
/talk *wealthy* in
th¹ ness n.

pple

custom, train, with
weaner < IE base
ove 1 to cause (a
gradually to food
ckling; now, often,
with a nipple 2 to
object of affection,

interest 3 to be
tomed to: with on

2] [Scot. or North

s just been weaned

skin to Ger *waffe*,

1 an instrument or
ting or hunting 2
ng or defending 3
the law/ —weap-

gn and production

esign and produc-
tion's stockpile of

: OE *wearian*, akin
wes, to clothe +

1 a) to have in

weapon, etc. b)

the heavyweight

o) as to be in style

have or show to

wearing on all re-

son habitually /b

ic or attribute /b

ow (its flag) /b

by constant wear

ing by the heat &

cause, of pressure

to wear & b) a re-

son 10 in pass

—vt. 1 to have in

use, practice, etc.

use as a verb with

ware with a re-

oring thing /b

at time /b

foot just before

or the next day

footsteps /b

greatest benefit

) the greatest

from wear

tion, etc. /a lot of wear left in the tire/ —wear down 1 to make or

become worn; lose or cause to lose thickness or heights by use,

friction, etc. 2 to tire out; or exhaust (a person); weary. 3 to over-

come the resistance of by persistence —wear off to pass away or

diminish by degrees —wear out 1 to make or become useless from

continued wear or use 2 to waste or consume by degrees 3 to tire

out; exhaust —wear the pants (or trousers) [Colloq.] to have the

greatest authority in a family —wearer n.

wear² (wer) vt. wore, worn, wearing [? altered (infl. by prec.) < VEER²] to turn or bring (a vessel) about by swinging its bow away

from the wind; veer: opposed to TACK (vt. 4a) —vi. to turn or come

about by having the bow swung away from the wind —n. the act of

wearing a ship

Wear (wir) river in Durham, N England, flowing northeast into the

North Sea: 67 mi. (107 km)

wear-able (wer'ə bəl) adj. that can be worn; suitable for wear —n.

[pl.] wearable things, garments; clothing —wearabil-ity n.

wear and tear loss and damage resulting from use

wear-ful (wir'fəl) adj. that makes weary; tiresome —wear'i-fully

adv. —wear'i-fulness n.

wear-i-less (wir'lis) adj. unwearying; tireless —wear'i-less-ly adv.

—wear'i-less-ness n.

wear-i-ness (-ē nis) n. 1 the condition or quality of being weary; fatigued or tired 2 something that wearies

wear-ing (wer'īng) adj. 1 of or intended for wear [wearing apparel] 2 causing wear, or gradual impairment or diminution 3 wearying; tiring —wear'ingly adv.

wear-i-some (wir'is om) adj. causing weariness; tiring, tiresome, or tedious —wear'i-somely adv.

wear-proof (wer'prōf) adj. resistant to normal wear or the effects of continued use

wear-y (wir'ē) adj. -ier, -i-est [ME *weri* < OE *werig*, akin to OHG

wuorag, drunk < IE base *wōr-, giddiness; faintness > Gr *hōrakian*,

to be giddy] 1 tired; worn out 2 without further liking, patience,

tolerance, zeal, etc.; bored; with of [weary of jokes] 3 tiring [weary

work] 4 irksome; tedious; tiresome [his weary explanation] —vt. vi.

-med, -trying to make or become weary —SYN. TIRED —wea'ri-ly

adv. —wea'ri-ness n.

wea-sel (wē'zəl) n., pl. -sels or -sel [ME *wesel* < OE *wesle*, akin to

Ger *wiesel*, prob. < IE base

*weis-, to flow out (with reference to the rank odor emitted by

the animal) > VIRUS, BISON] 1 any of various agile musteline

carnivores (esp. genus *Mustela*)

with a long, slender body, short

legs, and a long, bushy tail; they

feed on rats, mice, birds, eggs,

etc., and are worldwide 2 a sly,

cunning, or sneaky person —vi. 1 to use weasel words 2 [Colloq.]

to avoid or evade a commitment or responsibility: with out —wea'-

sel-ly adj.

*weasel words [prob. in allusion to the weasel's habit of sucking

out the contents of an egg without destroying the shell] words or

remarks that are equivocal or deliberately ambiguous or misleading

weather (wē'thər) n. [ME *weder* < OE, akin to ON *vethr*, Ger *wetter*

< IE base *we-, *we-, to blow > WIND², OSlav *vedro*, fair weather]

1 the general condition of the atmosphere at a particular time and

place, with regard to the temperature, moisture, cloudiness, etc. 2

disagreeable or harmful atmospheric conditions; storm, rain, etc.

[protected against the weather] —vt. 1 to expose to the action of

weather or atmosphere, as for airing, drying, seasoning, etc. 2 to

wear away, discolor, disintegrate, or otherwise change for the worse

by exposure to the atmosphere 3 to pass through safely or survive

[to weather a storm] 4 to slope (masonry, cornices, sills, etc.) so as

to allow water to run off 5 *Naut.* to pass to the windward of (a cape,

reef, etc.) —vi. 1 to become discolored, disintegrated, etc. by exposure

to the weather or atmosphere 2 to endure such exposure in a

specified manner (canvas that *wathers well*) —adj. 1 designating

or of the side of a ship, etc. toward the wind; windward 2 exposed to

the elements [weather deck] —under the weather [Colloq.] 'not

feeling well; somewhat sick; ailing 2 somewhat drunk —weather

through to pass or go safely through a storm, peril, difficulty, etc.

weather-beaten (bēt'ēn) adj. showing the effect of weather, as (a)

stained, damaged, or worn down b) sunburned, roughened, etc. (said

of a person, one's face, etc.)

weather-board (bōrd') n. 1 a) CLAPBOARD b) weatherboards collectively 2 *Naut.* the windward side of a ship —vt. to cover with weatherboards

weather-board-ing (bōrd'īng) n. weatherboards collectively

weather-bound (-bound') adj. delayed or halted by bad weather, as a

ship, airplane, etc.

*Weather Bureau old name for NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

weather-cock (-kōk') n. 1 a weather vane in the shape of a rooster

2 a fickle or changeable person or thing

weathered (wē'thēd) adj. 1 seasoned by the weather; stained,

worn, or beaten by the weather 2 given a stained or discolored finish

intended to resemble that produced by exposure to the weather. 3

Archit. made sloping, as sills, so as to shed water

weather-eye 1 an eye alert to signs of changing weather 2 a close

watch for change of any kind [to keep a weather eye on a touchy

situation] —keep one's weather eye open to be on the alert; stay

on guard

weather-glass (wē'thār glās') n. BAROMETER (sense 1).

weather-ing (-īng) n. 1. *Archit.* a slope built to shed water 2 *Geol.*

the physical and chemical effects of the forces of weather on rock

surfaces, as in forming soil, sand, etc.

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wearer /Weber

*weath'er-ize (-īz') vt. -ized', -iz'ing [WEATHER + -IZE] to weather-strip, insulate, etc. (a building), as in order to conserve heat —weath'er-iz'ation n.

weath'erly (-lē) adj. Naut. that can sail close to the wind with very

little drift to leeward —weath'er-li-ness n.

weather-man (-man') n., pl. -men' (-man') a person who forecasts

the weather, or, esp., one who reports weather conditions and forecasts, as on television

*weather map a map or chart showing the condition of the weather

in a certain area at a given time by indicating barometric pressures, temperatures, wind direction, etc.

weather-proof (-proof) adj. that can be exposed to wind, rain, snow, etc. without being damaged —vt. to make weatherproof

weather station a post or office where weather conditions are recorded and studied and forecasts are made

*weather-strip (strip') n. a thin strip of metal, felt, wood, etc., used

to cover the joint between a door or window sash and the jamb, casing, or sill so as to keep out drafts, rain, etc. Also weather strip

—vt. -stripped', -strip'ing to fit or provide with weatherstrips

*weather-strip-pong (strip'ōng) n. 1 WEATHERSTRIP 2 weatherstrips collectively

weather-vane a vane that swings in the wind to show the direction from which the wind is blowing

weather-wise (-wīz') adj. 1 skilled in predicting the weather, 2 skilled in predicting shifts of opinion, feeling, etc.

weather-worn (-wōrn') adj. WEATHER-BEATEN

weave (wēv) vt. wove or; chiefly for vt. 6 & vi. 2, weaved, we'ven or

wove, or, chiefly for vt. 6 & vi. 2, weaved, we'ven or

woven, weaving [ME *weven* < OE

wefan, akin to ON *weda*; Ger *weben* <

IE *webh- < Gr. *huphe*] < base

(a)we-, to plait, weave] 1 a) to make

(a fabric), esp. on a loom, by interlacing threads or yarns b) to form (threads) into a fabric 2 a) to construct in the mind or imagination b) to work (details, incidents, etc.) into a

story, poem, etc. 3 a) to make by interlacing twigs, straw, rush, wicker, etc. /to weave baskets/ b) to twist or interlace (straw, wicker, etc.) so as to

form something 4 to twist or interlace (something) into, through, or among /to weave flowers into one's

hair/ 5 to make or spin (a web): said of spiders, etc. 6 a) to cause (a vehicle, etc.) to move from side to side or in and out b) to make (one's way) by moving in this fashion —vi. 1 to do weaving; make cloth 2 to move from side to side or in and out /weaving through traffic/ —n. a method, manner, or pattern of weaving [a cloth of English *weave*]

weaver (wē'vər) n. 1 a person who weaves; esp., one whose work is

weaving 2 WEAVER FINCH

weaver-bird (bērd') n. WEAVER FINCH

weaver finch any of a number of Old World finches (family

Ploceidae) that weave elaborate domed nests of sticks, grass, and

other vegetation

weaver's hitch (or knot) SHEET BEND

web (web) n. [ME < OE *webb*, akin to ON *vefr*, OHG *weppi* < IE

*webh-, to weave] 1 any woven fabric; esp., a length of cloth being

woven on a loom or just taken off 2 a) the woven or spun network of

a spider; cobweb b) a similar network spun by the larvae of certain

insects 3 a carefully woven trap or snare 4 a complicated work of

the mind; imagination, etc. /a web of lies/ 5 anything like a web; as

in intricacy of pattern, interconnection of elements, etc.; network 6

Anat. a) tissue or membrane b) an abnormal membrane joining

fingers or toes at the base 7 Archit. the portion of a ribbed vault

between the ribs 8 Mech. the plate joining the flanges of a joist, girder, rail, etc. 9 Printing a large roll of paper for continuously

feeding a type of rotary press (web press) 10 Zool. a) the vane of a

feather b) a membrane partly or completely joining the digits of various water birds, water animals, etc. —vt. webbed, web'bing: 1

to join by or as by a web, 2 to cover with or as with a web 3 to catch or snare in or as in a web —web'like adj.

Web (web) 1 Beatrice (Potter) 1858-1947; Eng. economist & socialist

reformer; wife of Sidney James 2 Sidney (James) 1st Baron

Passfield 1859-1947; Eng. economist & socialist reformer

webbed (web'd) adj. 1 formed like a web or made of webbing 2

joined by a web /webbed toes/ 3 having the digits joined by a web /a

webbed foot/

web-bing (web'īng) n. 1 a strong, tough fabric, as of jute or cotton,

woven in strips and used for belts, in upholstery, etc. 2 a membrane

joining the digits, as of a duck, goose, frog, etc. 3 a part like this; as

between the thumb and forefinger of a baseball glove 4 a netlike

structure of interwoven cord, etc., as the strung part of rackets

webby (-ē) adj. web'bier, web'biest 1 of, having the nature of, or

like a web 2 webbed or palmate

webber (web'ər, vā'ber) n. [after Wilhelm Eduard WEBER] the practical

mks unit of magnetic flux, equal to 10⁸ maxwells; abbrev. *Wb*.

We-ber (vā'ber, vā'ber) for 4; web'r. 1 Carl Maria (Friedrich Ernst) von

(mā rē'fōn) 1786-1826; Ger. composer 2 Ernst Heinrich (ernst

In etymologies: * = unattested; *a* = derived from; *v* = from which

* = Americanism —See inside front and back covers

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